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NEWS RELEASE

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CHATHAM COMMUNITY CENTER CLOSURE

Out of an abundance of caution during the current Public Health Emergency the Community Center will be CLOSED until FURTHER NOTICE.

This action is consistent with the recently announced closure of the Monomoy Regional School District and Governor Baker's ban on gatherings of >250 persons. Neighboring communities have taken similar action as a means to slow the spread of COVID-19.

The MA Department of Public Health yesterday reported the first case of COVID-19 in Barnstable County based on testing at the State Health Laboratory. The Town was made aware today that the individual involved, not a Chatham resident, was at the Community Center on February 29th. It is not known when or where the person contracted the disease. Based on current CDC and MADPH guidance on the incubation period for COVID-19 of 14 days the risk period has passed. The Town is NOT aware of any reported cases of COVID-19 in Chatham nor have Community Center staff reported any symptoms. The Town will be undertaking a thorough disinfection of the Community Center Building during the closure. Community Center Staff will work out of an alternate location temporarily.

Any person who is experiencing symptoms such as a fever, and a cough or difficulty breathing is encouraged to self-isolate and call your healthcare provider for medical advice.

While the Town declared a State of Emergency on Friday it was not in response to the information above which only became known today. The Emergency Declaration was made proactively to ensure the Town could respond in a coordinated manner to the COVID-19 global Pandemic.

All persons are urged to maintain social distancing (6 feet from other persons) whenever possible and to wash hands, utilize alcohol-based hand sanitizer, and practice proper respiratory etiquette. High risk individuals, including older adults, those with underlying medical conditions (heart or lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, weakened immune system, anyone who is pregnant, are urged to avoid large gatherings).

Updated information is available on the Town's website: <https://www.chatham-ma.gov/home/pages/covid-19-coronavirus-information>.